

This week's big news



What is Vatican City?



Vatican City is the headquarters of the Catholic Church and the world's smallest independent country. It covers 0.17 square miles in Rome, Italy, including the famous Saint Peter's Square, and has a total population of about 750 people. Despite its small size, the Vatican has its own banking system, post office, and flag (above).

Funeral held for Pope Francis

On April 26, world leaders and hundreds of thousands of mourners gathered at the Vatican in Rome, Italy, to mourn Pope Francis in a solemn funeral service that was also televised around the globe. Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, died on April 21 at age 88.

Who was Pope Francis?

Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in 1936 and raised in a humble neighborhood in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was a priest and cardinal (senior religious leader) in his home country before being elected the 266th pope in 2013. He

was the first Jesuit (Catholic order focused on helping others) pope and the first chosen from Latin America. After being selected to lead the church and its 1.4 billion followers, he took the name Francis after Saint Francis of Assisi, a Catholic figure known for helping the poor. From the start,

Francis rejected many of the lavish aspects of his position. He took a vow of poverty, living in the Vatican guesthouse rather than luxurious apartments and donating his salary to charity.

What were the funeral services?

About 400,000 mourners filled Vatican City (see box above) and the streets of Rome for the funeral.

Many world leaders attended the two-hour Mass (religious service) led by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re at Saint Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world. They included President Donald Trump, former President Joe Biden, Prince William of the UK, and Emmanuel Macron, president of France. Religious leaders from other faiths, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam, attended as well. In keeping with Francis' wishes, the service was simpler than previous funerals for a pope. His body was placed in a plain wooden coffin with a prayer book placed on top. He was the first pope in

more than 100 years to be buried outside

Saint Peter's Basilica. Instead, he was laid to rest at a smaller church nearby, called Saint Mary Major.

There, at his request, a ceremonial group of about 40 people, including homeless people and prisoners, held white roses and greeted his coffin.

Francis was buried in a pair of well-

worn shoes in an undecorated tomb engraved only with his Latin name: Franciscus.

How will he be remembered?

People holding the flag of

Argentina near the Vatican

Francis was an outspoken champion for the voiceless, including migrants (people forced to leave their home countries because of strife) and the poor. He traveled to 68 nations around the

world, advocating for peace, unity among people of different faiths, and urgent action on climate change. Within the church, he expressed his wish for Catholicism to focus more on accepting and helping others than on following strict rules. In this effort, he clashed with church leaders who wanted the rules to stay the same. Meanwhile, others in the church criticized him for not going far enough to put new policies in place. Even those who disagreed with him admired his humility and commitment to the disadvantaged. "He was a pope among the people, with an open heart toward everyone," Battista Re said at the Mass.

What will happen next?

The process of electing a new pope will begin on May 7, when 135 cardinals will gather at the Vatican for what is called a conclave, the complex process of choosing the next pope. The cardinals will remain in seclusion to consider candidates, voting up to four times a day until one person gets a two-thirds majority. After each vote, the cardinals send a message to the outside world by burning pellets that have been treated with chemicals to make the smoke either black or white. Black smoke coming from the chimney means no decision has been made. White smoke means a new pope has been chosen. The 267th pope will then appear on the balcony overlooking Saint Peter's Square.

Liberal Party wins Canadian election

In an election on April 28, Canadians chose the Liberal Party to lead the country for a fourth straight term. Mark Carney, the party's leader since March, will continue as the nation's prime minister (PM, like a President). It was a major comeback for a party that was very unpopular as recently as January, when Liberal leader Justin Trudeau stepped down after nearly 10 years as PM.

In Canada, citizens vote for members of Parliament (similar to the US Congress, the branch of government that makes laws). The party that wins the most seats in Parliament is in power, and the leader of that party becomes the country's PM. When *The Week Junior* went to press, the Liberals had won 168 seats and their opponents, the Conservative Party, had won 144.

Carney, a former banking industry executive, said his primary focus will be to improve trade relations with the US, cut taxes, and lower the cost of living. In a social media post after the win, he said, "Our strength lies in our resolve to work together. United, we will build Canada strong."





WWII milestone to be observed

ay 8 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, known as V-E Day. On that date in 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allied forces, bringing an end to World War II in Europe.

World War II, the largest war in history, was fought between the Allied forces and the Axis powers. The Allies were led by the US, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union (a group of 15 countries led by Russia from 1922 to 1991), while the Axis was led by Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The war began in September 1939 when Germany, under the control of the Nazi political party and its leader, Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland. The Axis took control of most of western Europe, and the Nazis killed 6 million Jewish people and millions of others in the Holocaust, one of the most tragic events in world history. Germany's surrender

on V-E Day marked an end to fighting in Europe, although the Allies continued to fight in Japan, the Philippines, and elsewhere until September.

On V-E Day, people gathered in the streets around the world to celebrate the war's end. "This is a solemn but a glorious hour," Harry Truman, the US President at the time, said in a radio address. "The flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

May 8 is a public holiday in France, where an official ceremony and smaller celebrations will mark the 80th anniversary. Four days of events are being held in the UK this year, including military processions, street parties, and concerts. King Charles and Queen Camilla will host a tea for war veterans at Buckingham Palace. In the US, there will be a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

CROWNING A WINNER

An English bulldog named Milo won the Beautiful Bulldog Contest at Drake University in Iowa. Milo, age 7, is the 46th pup to wear the crown. His owners said he loves treats, playing with his brother, and watching Animal Planet.



CHIPS FOR CHARITY

Just in time for summer, the snack company Utz has teamed up with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, a charity that fights children's cancer, to create Lemonade Potato Chips. The limited-edition

snack is sweet, salty, tangy, and crunchy and tastes like "summer in a bite," Utz said. A portion of sales will support the foundation, which called the chips a "fun and meaningful way" to help.



AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD SALE

A watch given to astronaut Neil Armstrong after he became the first person to walk on the Moon in 1969 has sold at auction for \$2.1 million. The 18 karat gold Omega Speedmaster Professional is engraved with these words: "To mark man's conquest of space with time, through time, on time."





National news



Send us your photos!



If you do the ice bucket challenge to support mental health causes, take a photo of yourself before or after. An adult can email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com with your first name, age, state, and any comment you have. Be sure to send us a photo, not a video. We may publish some submissions we receive in a future issue.

Mental Health Awareness Month marked

In May, the US is observing Mental Health Awareness Month. It's a time for organizations and individuals to increase understanding about mental health. This year, the effort is receiving a boost from the ice bucket challenge, an activity that has gone viral on social media.

What is mental health?

Mental health is related to how people think, feel, and behave. Although everyone feels anxious or sad at times, when these feelings persist, they can develop into more serious conditions. Anxiety is having feelings of worry or fear that won't go away. Depression is when someone feels sad for a long time and loses interest in activities they usually enjoy. One in five people in the US has a mental illness, and it

is important for people to learn how to get the care they need and support one another.

What is the ice bucket challenge?

The ice bucket challenge first went viral in 2014 to raise money for researching ALS, a disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. More than 17 million people posted videos of themselves having cold water dumped over their head and challenging others to do the same. It raised more than \$115 million for ALS research.

What happened this year?

A group of students at the University of South Carolina (USC) organized an ice bucket challenge to raise funds for Active Minds, a national youth mental health organization. They first challenged their friends, but the posts quickly went viral, with young people across the US taking part. By the end of April, the challenge had raised more than \$387,000. Active Minds hopes to see donations increase in May. Wade Jefferson, a USC student who helped start the trend, said, "We're proud, grateful, and just excited to see how far it's gone."

What else is happening?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness has started a campaign called "In Every Story, There's Strength" to highlight the different experiences people have with mental health. On May 15, groups across the US will host events for Mental Health Action Day. Experts want everyone to know that when someone is having a hard time, it's not their fault. If you ever feel sad or anxious, talk to a trusted adult.

WORD HE WEEK

ALBUM

The word "album" is based on the Latin albus, meaning "white." It first referred to a white slab of marble onto which public notices were inscribed in ancient Rome. In English, "album" was used to describe blank books for items, such as photographs. In the middle of the 20th century, the word began to refer to recorded music.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

May 8, 1877

First Westminster Dog Show is held On May 8, 1877, the first Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show took place in New York City. It was held at Gilmore's Garden, an open-air arena that later became Madison Square Garden, with 1,201 dogs participating. This year, about 2,500 dogs competed in the event. It is the city's longest-running sports event and is older than the light bulb, the automobile, and the Brooklyn Bridge.



National news



High-ranking senator to retire

On April 23, Richard Durbin, a US senator from Illinois, announced that he will not seek re-election next year. Durbin, age 80, was first elected to the Senate (one half of Congress) in 1996 and has since served five terms. For the last 20 years, he has been the Democratic whip, the second-ranking position in his party. He served in the House of Representatives (other half of Congress) before the Senate. "I know it's time to pass the torch," he said.



A week to honor teachers

From May 5 to May 9, Teacher Appreciation Week will take place in the US. The theme for the event, which has been sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association since 1984, is "Teachers Light the Way to Brighter Futures." It's a time for schools, students, and families to thank educators for their positive impact on learning, and events will be held across the country.



Fifteen sets of twins to graduate

Plainview—Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School on Long Island, New York, announced that it will graduate 15 sets of twins among its 447 seniors in the class of 2025. Most of them have been in the school district since kindergarten, the assistant principal said. Although none of the twins are identical, two sets have the same first names: Joshua and Rebecca.



Detroit plants giant sequoia forest

Giant sequoia trees have been planted in Detroit, Michigan, to create an urban forest. The trees can live for thousands of years, and the hope is that they will benefit the city.

Giant sequoias are the world's largest trees.
They can grow more than 280 feet tall, have a diameter of more than 25 feet, and weigh as much as 6,000 tons—more than half the weight of the Eiffel Tower in France. The trees, which are native to California and can be found in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, can live for 3,000 years or longer due to their ability to resist disease. But they are increasingly being harmed by wildfires and

The nonprofit Archangel Ancient Tree Archive (AATA), which works to preserve important trees, donated the

droughts (long periods

without rain) in California.

sequoia saplings to Detroit. To create the saplings, scientists cloned (copied) the DNA (chemical that carries all the information about living thing) from two California giant sequoias.

AATA selected Detroit because it is struggling with two problems—poor air quality and thousands of empty lots—that the sequoias could help solve. Detroit was also recognized as a safe space for the trees because the city doesn't get wildfires and its soil remains moist throughout the year.

Arboretum Detroit, a group that cares for trees in the city, worked with AATA to plant

the sequoias alongside other native trees. The sequoia saplings,

which are about a foot tall,
were planted in four vacant
spaces. In about 10 years,
the sequoias are expected
to become about 15 feet
tall, and their canopy will
provide shade. Since the
trees will take many years to
grow, Arboretum Detroit has
started a campaign called "Tree

started a campaign called "Tree School" to train nearby youth to

care for the trees and to become their guardians.

Detroit could become "the greenest city in the world," Arboretum Detroit's director, Andrew Kemp, told the Associated Press.

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A volunteer carrying a tree seedling to be planted

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Herd of 25 escaped cows visits Pennsylvania neighborhoods" *UPI*



Around the world



Uden, Netherlands Warhol artwork thrown away

Authorities in the Maashorst region have admitted that a silkscreen print by the famous artist Andy Warhol was probably thrown away by accident last year. The portrait of Beatrix, the Netherlands' former gueen, was worth about \$17,000. It was put into storage during town hall renovations but was then discarded along with other pieces of art.



™ London, United Kingdom New marathon record set

Ethiopian runner Tigst Assefa won her first London Marathon on April 27, setting a new world record in the process. Assefa broke the record time for a women's-only marathon by 26 seconds, completing the 26.2-mile course in 2 hours, 15 minutes, 50 seconds. Kenyan runner Sabastian Sawe won the men's race, finishing in 2:02.27. He is the fourth consecutive Kenyan athlete to win the men's London Marathon.



Ashgabat, Turkmenistan **Country relaxes visiting rules**

Turkmenistan, one of the most closed-off countries in the world, introduced a law that will make it easier for tourists to visit. In the past, an invitation to travel to the country was needed. Now people can fill out an online form to apply for a visa (document that allows entry). One popular attraction is the "Gates of Hell," a crater in the desert that is permanently on fire because of natural gases that have been burning since the 1970s.



São Paulo, Brazil

Scientists have found the remains of the oldest-known ant. Vulcanidris cratensis was part of an extinct group of ants with jaws that curved upward. The insect was about half an inch long with wings and a stinger. Researchers at the Zoological Museum of the University of São Paulo identified the 113-million-year-old fossil, which was unearthed in northeastern Brazil.



A horse therapy program has been helping Namibian children with learning disabilities and other conditions, such as autism (a developmental disorder caused by differences in the brain). Susan de Meyer runs the program, called **Enabling Through the Horse. During** the sessions, children can groom, pet, and ride the horses. De Meyer says being around the animals helps the children develop skills, which boosts their self-esteem.









De Panne, Belgium **Boy wins second bird-call title**

On April 27, 10-year-old Cooper Wallace from the UK won junior gold for the second year in a row at the European Gull Screeching Championship. The contest involves mimicking the calls and actions of seagulls. Cooper received a goodie basket and a medal. His 7-year-old sister Shelby, who placed fourth, said she was "very happy" for her brother.



Gobi Desert, China Mission to Chinese Space Station launches

The Shenzhou-20 mission launched into space on April 24, carrying three astronauts to the Chinese space station, Tiangong. It is the first time on Tiangong for two of the astronauts, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie. The team brought zebrafish, planarians (a type of worm), and streptomyces bacteria with them. They will spend six months at the station, where they will conduct life science experiments.





Japan **Customers turn to South Korean rice**

For the first time since 1999, Japan has bought rice from South Korea. Hot summers in recent years and fewer farmers growing the crop have led to shortages of rice in Japan, causing sharp increases in prices. Japanese consumers rarely bought rice from other countries in the past, but now many people do so in order to save money. Two tons of South Korean rice were shipped to Japan last month, and 22 more tons are expected to arrive soon.





Dodoma, Tanzania Produce import ban lifted

On April 26, Tanzania lifted a ban on some imports from South Africa and Malawi. The ban, which went into effect two days earlier, applied to agricultural products such as fruit. The Ministry of Agriculture introduced the ban because it believes South Africa and Malawi have unfairly restricted Tanzanian goods. It said it hopes a long-term solution can be found.



Dog found after 529 days

A miniature dachshund dog has been found alive and well after spending 529 days in the wilderness. Valerie went missing from a campsite on Kangaroo Island in November 2023. Volunteers from Kangala Wildlife Rescue, an organization based on the island, stepped in and searched more than 3,000 miles for the runaway dog. They eventually rescued her using a trap containing toys, food, and her bed from home.

JAMY (2); ANDERSON LEPECO; GETTY IMAGES (6); KANGALA WILDLIFE RESCUE



The big debate

Should colleges have a sports major?

Some people say student-athletes work hard and should have their own degree.

What you need to know

- In 2024, more than 540,000 students played NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) sports at 1,100 US colleges and universities.
- The NCAA is divided into Divisions I, II, and III (known as DI, DII, and DIII), with DI the most competitive.
- According to the NCAA, DI studentathletes spend about 35.5 hours per week on academics and 33 hours per week on sports.
- In DII, they spend 37 hours per week on academics and 31 on sports.

Cheering students pack the stands at college games, wearing their school's colors, while graduates stay loyal to their teams for life. For many people, sports are a huge part of the college experience, with revered traditions and thrilling rivalries dating back hundreds of years. That's all made possible by the student-athletes who juggle the demands of competition with classes and homework. Some people say that's asking too much of them and they should be allowed to get academic credit in exchange for their hard work. Others argue that sports should stay separate from classroom studies. What do you think? Should colleges have a sports major?



Yes—learning happens in many ways

Being a college athlete is like having a full-time job on top of going to class and completing coursework. Why not reward those students for their efforts and let them apply their investment of time toward a degree? A sports major could be structured to combine requirements on the field and in the classroom to prepare students for a wide range of careers, from coaching and sports media to nutrition and sports psychology. Besides, many colleges and universities already offer courses and majors that focus on other types of passions, like music, drama, dance, and art. Sports should not be treated any differently.

No—they made the choice to play

Given how much attention is already paid to college sports at the expense of other activities on campus—and how separate many athletes already feel from the rest of the students—the last thing anyone needs is a sports major to create more division. Besides, there are already good major options for people who want to work in sports, like sports management, exercise and sports science, or sports broadcasting. If someone is committed and skilled enough to play a college sport, that's great, but it has nothing to do with classroom studies. It's not easy to do both, but it's what they signed up for.

Three reasons colleges should have a sports major

- Playing high-level college sports is a huge commitment, and a sports major would recognize the hard work.
- A sports major would combine work on and off the field to prepare students for a range of different careers.
- Majoring in sports is no different than majoring in performing arts.

NO Three reasons colleges should not have a sports major

- Offering a sports major would only create more division between athletes and non-athletes on campus.
- There are already several majors that prepare people for jobs in sports.
- Student-athletes know what they're signing up for when they commit to playing in college.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if peaceful protesters should be punished.

Nearly all of you said no, people should not face consequences for speaking out in a nonviolent way.

(P)

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think colleges should have a sports major or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

New star onstage

In the Broadway production of Wicked, Lencia Kebede is making history.

On Broadway

encia Kebede made her Broadway debut in March, becoming the first Black actor to play Elphaba full-time in the musical *Wicked*. The show, which first opened in 2003, tells the story of Elphaba and Glinda,

the witches from the book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and is one of the most popular musicals in the world.

Kebede, age 30, is the daughter of Ethiopian immigrants and grew up in Los Angeles, California. Her path to Broadway was unexpected. She studied diplomacy and politics

at Occidental College and originally planned to work in law or public service. But during her senior year, Kebede decided to follow her passion for performing.

After graduating from college in 2016, she pursued a career in musical theater. Kebede's early roles included a national tour of the Broadway musical *Rent* and a show at Tokyo Disney. She then spent five years touring with *Hamilton*, playing one of the lead roles as Angelica Schuyler.

Elphaba is known to be a challenging

role that involves singing, acting, and being lifted into the air during the famous song "Defying Gravity." When Kebede first sang that song for a Broadway audience, she was supported by more than 60 family members and friends in attendance. "I really felt like I was flying," she said.

In a social media post after her debut, Kebede reflected on her journey and the many times she sang "Defying Gravity" as a child. She shared a lyric from the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, writing, "The dreams that you dare to dream do come true."



Revisiting his music

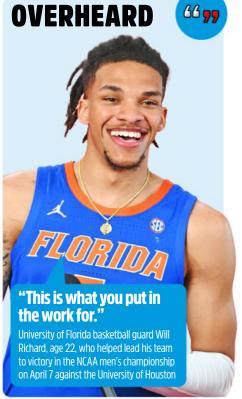
Rock icon Bruce Springsteen surprised fans by announcing that he will be dropping a set of seven albums on June 27. Titled *Tracks II: The Lost Albums*, it features 83 songs recorded between 1983 and 2018, 74 of which have never been heard by the public. Springsteen, age 75, grew up in New Jersey and rose to fame in the mid-1970s. He has sold more than 140 million records, with songs that explore the struggles and dreams of everyday people. On the new albums, he opens up about his creative process and special memories.





Journalist wins prize

Andrea Mitchell, the chief Washington and foreign affairs correspondent for NBC News, will receive the 2025 Peabody Career Achievement Award, a top journalism prize. In a career at NBC that spans more than 50 years, Mitchell, age 78, is known for her tough questions and for blazing a trail for women in journalism. She has covered eight US presidencies, reported from war zones, and interviewed world leaders. She also hosted Andrea Mitchell Reports on MSNBC for 17 years. Peabody director Jeffrey Jones praised Mitchell for bringing forth "stories that have shaped history."





Animals and the environment



A truly great ape

Kanzi the bonobo recently died at the age of 44. Born at a research center, Kanzi wowed scientists by learning more than 300 lexigrams (symbols that represent words) and combining them to create new meanings. He also used tools and played video games, beating Minecraft's final boss in 2024.



How monkeys choose a babysitter

Primates (the group of mammals that includes apes, humans, lemurs, and monkeys) often help each other raise their young babies. A new study has found that snub-nosed monkeys

choose who babysits their young based on who has the most parenting experience.

A team of researchers at Southwest Forestry
University in China made this discovery by accident.
They noticed that during the breeding season at the
Baimaxueshan National Nature
Reserve, black-and-white snub-nosed monkeys often passed around their newborns. The monkeys took turns grooming, carrying, and feeding the newborns. This

behavior reminded the team of the way humans babysit for one another, so they decided to observe the monkeys more closely.

The researchers followed the group every day for six months. They observed

more than 400 moments in which a female monkey interacted with a mother and newborn. Some of these interactions included grooming the newborn or gently pulling them closer.

Once the babies were

slightly older, the mothers were more likely to allow other females to take care of them. When choosing a

babysitter, the mothers seemed to base their decision on how much parenting experience

the other female monkeys had. Younger females with less experience would usually be allowed to look after the infants after a more experienced monkey had given up their babysitting duties.

Letting other group members help with childcare can make it possible for mothers to get the rest they need. It also has benefits for inexperienced caretakers. Chun-Yan Cui, one of the researchers involved in the study, told *New Scientist* that caring for others' young gives the younger females a chance to learn more about parenting, which prepares them for having their own offspring in the future. She said that more research needs to be done to find out whether the monkeys' social status affects babysitting choices and whether being related to the mother makes a difference.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

A baby cuddles

up to an adult.

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

This national park in northwestern Wyoming features the 40-mile-long Teton Range, which is the youngest mountain range in the Rocky Mountains. Snake River runs through the park's 310,000 acres, and forests and meadows make up the rest of the landscape. Pronghorn antelope, which can sprint up to 60 miles per hour, live in the Grand Tetons, along with grizzly bears, bison, elk, and beavers. More than 300 species of birds, including the bald eagle, trumpeter swan, and great blue heron, can be seen in flight throughout the park.



Animals and the environment





Spotted fur helps giraffes survive

Every giraffe has a unique pattern of spots in different shapes and sizes. These spots are not just for show—they help the large creatures blend into their environment and hide from predators. Now scientists have learned that the spots also play a role in how giraffes respond to extreme temperatures.

Researchers studied 810 wild maasai giraffes in Tanzania. They found that calves and adult males with larger spots were more likely to survive unusually cold temperatures. On the other hand, giraffes with smaller spots were more likely to survive unusually high temperatures.

This could be because dark-colored fur absorbs more heat than lighter fur. Large, dark spots may absorb too much heat in hot weather but bring needed warmth in the cold. Giraffes also have many blood vessels under their spots, which might expand to release heat in high temperatures and shrink to hold on to heat when it's cold out. Adult males may be most affected because they spend more time exposed to the elements while searching for mates.

Animal of the week

Darwin's rhea



Wildlife experts in South America are coming together to save Darwin's rheas from going extinct in Chile. They are moving 15 of the large, flightless birds from Argentina to boost Chile's population and restore grasslands in Patagonia National Park.

- LIFE SPAN: 20 years in the wild, 40 in captivity
- HABITAT: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru
- SIZE: About 4 feet tall, weighing 50 pounds
- **DIET:** Broad-leafed plants, fruits, seeds, and roots
- FUN FACT: These ostrich-like birds have three-toed feet and can run 37 miles per hour.

(F)

Good week / Bad week



An "extinct" snail

After being declared extinct in the 1980s, Partula tohiveana has been reclassified as critically endangered.
Conservationists bred the tiny snails and reintroduced them in French Polynesia, where they have begun to thrive.



Bristlecone pines

A wildfire in eastern California burned within 15 miles of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, threatening some of the world's oldest trees (above). One of them was Methuselah, a nearly 5,000-year-old pine that may be the oldest living thing on Earth.



"Are dolphins considered a whale or a fish?" Avaley, 8, Michigan

Joseph K. Gaydos

Senior wildlife veterinarian, SeaDoc Society, UC Davis SVM

Dolphins swim underwater like fish, but they are not fish. They are whales, which are mammals. Being a mammal means they have hair (a few hairs on their chin when they are born) and produce milk to feed their young. Also, unlike fish, dolphins must come to the surface to breathe air.



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the UC Davis SVM at vetned.ucdavis.edu.



All about Serengeti National Park

A spectacular trek

An epic journey known as the Great Migration occurs in Africa every year.

Serengeti National Park, home to millions of wildebeest and many other animals, is one of the most important wildlife habitats on Earth.

Where is the park?

AFRICA Serengeti National Park

Serengeti National Park is in Tanzania, Africa, near the country's border with Kenya. The park, established in 1951, occupies about 5,700 square miles—about three times as big as Grand Canyon

National Park in Arizona. It is part of the larger Serengeti ecosystem that stretches for nearly 12,000 square miles. The park spreads across the Serengeti Plains, an area of tropical grasslands called savannas. This landscape has grass of varying lengths that animals feed on. The Mara River runs through the park. On the Kenyan side of the Serengeti Plains is the Maasai Mara National Reserve, which animals from the park seasonally cross into.



Animals in the wild

Serengeti National Park is home to a group of animals known as the "big 5": rhinoceros, leopard, lion, elephant, and buffalo (see box at right). They got this name long ago because they were the most difficult for humans to hunt. While hunting is no longer permitted in the park, the term is still used to attract tourists. Other park wildlife include cheetahs, spotted hyenas, Thomson's gazelles, giraffes, hippopotamuses, and more than 500 bird species. It is here, in this vast terrain, that one of the biggest animal land migrations on Earth unfolds.



The big 5

Rhinoceros

Weighing about 1,800 to 3,000 pounds, the black rhino is one of the hardest

animals to spot because there are so few of them. They use their distinctive horns to protect themselves and mark territory.

Leopard

These animals are solitary and, due to their spotted coats, excellent at

camouflage. They like to eat their prey undisturbed on top of a sausage tree (named for its hanging sausage-shaped fruit).

Lion

Serengeti has between 3,000 and 4,000 lions, which can be seen in prides in many areas of the park. Since they spend most of their day sleeping, they can often be found taking a nap under a tree.

All about Serengeti National Park



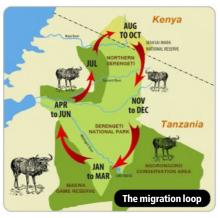
for wildlife





Elephant
African
elephants can
be found near
watering holes
and roaming the
park's plains and
woodlands. Male elephants
can weigh from 9,900 to more
than 13,000 pounds.

Known for its aggressive behavior, especially when defending its herd or territory, the buffalo is considered one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. Buffalo can gather in herds of 1,000 or more.



Mammals on the move

Every year, more than a million wildebeest and thousands of zebras and gazelles make a long and risky trek around the park in search of food and water. Their predators, such as lions, hyenas, and cheetahs, follow. The journey consists of a clockwise loop covering 800 to 1,200 miles. In the early part of the year, the wildebeest spend time in the southern Serengeti. They give birth to their calves in February and March, at the start of the rainy season. Mid-year, the herd, which can stretch for more than 20 miles, sets off toward the western corridor, braving hungry freshwater crocodiles at the Grumeti River. The animals then travel north. cross the Mara River, and head to the Maasai Mara National Reserve. From there, they begin their return south and start the migration cycle again.

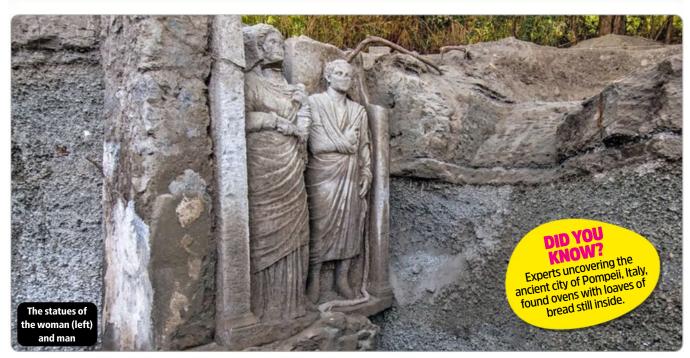


A habitat under threat

The Serengeti region is under pressure for several reasons. Higher temperatures and periods of intense droughts and rain brought on by climate change affect the migration route and availability of water. Poaching, habitat loss, and pollution threaten wildlife. Species like the black rhino, leopard, elephant, cheetah, and lesser flamingo have experienced population declines. The famous wildebeest draw millions of tourists each year, who sometimes get in the way of the animals' migration. Experts recommend visiting during the off-season (March to May and November/December) instead.



Science and technology



Rare statues found at Pompeii

wo rare statues were discovered during an excavation in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, in Italy. The depictions of a woman and man are nearly life-size and carved in careful detail. Experts are unsure whether the pair are a husband and wife or mother and son, but the woman's appearance indicates that she may have been a high-ranking priestess and was more important than the man.

Pompeii was a thriving seaside town with about 10.000 residents and lavish homes. marketplaces, and art. In the year 79, a nearby volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city beneath layers of volcanic ash. The ash preserved found at Pompeii Pompeii nearly perfectly, freezing the city in time until it was rediscovered in the mid-1700s. Experts have been digging it out slowly, and they routinely make new discoveries.

The statues are located on the wall of a tomb near the city gates. Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) estimate that the carvings were made between 200 BCE and 1 BCE. They analyzed how the statues were adorned and determined that they were people with high standing in Roman society.

The man is wearing a toga (type of loose gown) and a style of shoe worn by the upper class. The woman is dressed more elaborately, in a cloak and tunic with jewelry including bracelets, earrings, rings, and a necklace. Based on the symbolism of the objects she wears and holds, experts believe the woman could have been a

> high-ranking priestess of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture and maternal (motherly) relationships.

The female statue's necklace has a crescent moon pendant called a lunula, which was used to ward off evil. She also holds laurel leaves—which priestesses in ancient Rome used to bless and purify religious spaces—and a scroll. Most women at the time were limited

to taking care of the home. Being a priestess was special and would have been the highest social rank for a woman, the experts said.

Painted walls

The project's leaders said it's rare to find large sculptures like this in the region, especially one with a woman holding religious objects. In a description of the discovery, they wrote that her statue "draws attention to the active role of women acting as priestesses in the religious life of their communities."

Sweet-smelling statues



A new study found that ancient Greek and Roman statues were beautifully carved—and smelled good, too. They were often scented with perfumes, waxes, and oils. Although little physical evidence of this practice remains today, scientists found mentions of scented statues in inscriptions, written records, and archaeological sites, such as Delos in Greece.

Perfumes at the time were made from plant oil or animal fat scented with flowers and herbs. They would have been thick and sticky, like a creamy balm, and they were slathered onto the sculptures rather than sprayed or dabbed. Perfumed statues mostly depicted religious figures, like gods and goddesses. A sweet scent would have helped them seem more present and alive to worshippers.

Science and technology



Stinky frog could provide new medicine

Scientists working to create new kinds of medicine have turned to an unlikely source: a frog species that lives mostly in South Asia and is known for its strong odor. The frog, Odorrana andersonii, releases a stinky chemical that has antibiotic properties.

Antibiotics are a type of medicine that fights off infections caused by bacteria. But as people use antibiotics, the bacteria can gradually become resistant to the medicines. Scientists are developing new kinds of antibiotics that can fight drug-resistant bacteria.

Amphibians like frogs live in environments with a lot of bacteria and have natural ways of fighting off bacterial infections. One of those is the chemical released by O. andersonii.

When the frogs produce it, however, it forms clumps. This makes the chemical less effective at fighting bacteria and more likely to cause toxic side effects.

To get around this, a team of scientists led by César de la Fuente at the University of Pennsylvania

made tiny changes to the

chemical's structure.
The altered substance
resisted clumping, and
it was effective at
killing bacteria without
harmful side effects.

The researchers will continue studying this potential new antibiotic and hope that it can one day help sick people. "Our ultimate dream is to benefit humanity and hopefully improve the world in some way," de la Fuente told the university student newspaper The Daily Pennsylvanian.





Huge telescope may quickly spot life

A telescope called the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) is being built in a desert in Chile and should be operational by 2028. Experts say that within hours of being turned on, the ELT could help answer some of science's biggest questions, like whether alien life exists.

With a mirror that's 127 feet around and the ability to rotate 360 degrees, the ELT will gather more light and have higher image resolution than any land-based telescope in the world. It will capture the sharpest views yet of our Milky Way solar system and beyond. One of its primary goals will be to look for Earth-like planets around other stars, where other life-forms could exist.

To see how effective the ELT might be, scientists recently created a computer simulation of its functions. They found that the telescope will be able to accurately distinguish between different star systems. And, according to the study, it may be able to detect signs of life on a nearby planet within 10 hours of starting up.



Scientists have made an "electronic tongue" that lets you taste food without eating it. Called e-Taste, it has a thin strip with sensors that "sample" food. The sensors detect the levels of certain chemicals that correspond to the five flavors people experience: salty, sour,

sweet, bitter, and umami. The device takes those readings and converts them into digital data.

Using that data, e-Taste re-creates the taste of the food by mixing flavored hydrogels, then pumps them to a user's tongue. It could be used to boost virtual reality experiences.



Photos of the week









ETTY I MAGES (6)

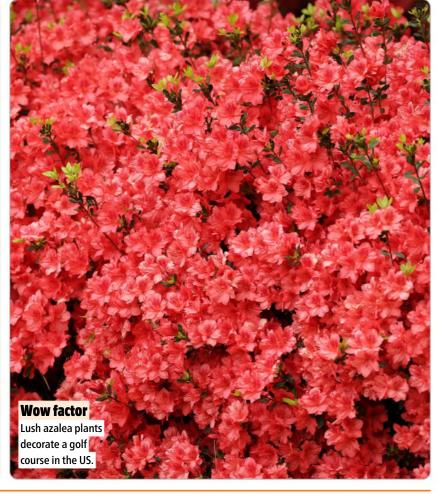
Photos of the week













Sports



Travis Hunter

A new Mr. Irrelevant



"Mr. Irrelevant," as the final pick in the NFL Draft has been known since 1976, has become a beloved concept in sports. This year, the nickname went to cornerback Kobee Minor of the University of Memphis (above), who was selected by the New England Patriots.

NFL selects new players in draft

From April 24 to April 26, the 2025 NFL (National Football League) Draft took place in Green Bay, Wisconsin. During the event, NFL teams select college football players to bolster their rosters. On the first night, 205,000 fans watched the action in person.

The NFL Draft, which launched in 1936, was originally completed in one day. That year, 81 players were drafted and 24 chose to pursue a pro football career. This year, 257 players from a total of 86 different colleges were drafted over

seven rounds. The order in which teams make their picks is based on how they finished the previous season. The teams with the worst records pick first, and the Super Bowl champions pick last. However,

teams can trade their picks to move up or down in the draft, often in hopes of getting specific players. In the first round, the Tennessee Titans had the first pick and chose University of Miami

quarterback Cam Ward. Although he wasn't highly recruited as a high school player, he went on to set records in college, earn top athletic honors, and become a finalist for the 2024 Heisman Trophy (award for the most outstanding college football player). The Jacksonville Jaguars made a deal

with the Cleveland Browns in order to move up in the draft and get the second pick. The Jaguars selected Travis Hunter from the University of Colorado. He won the 2024 Heisman and is a rare talent who plays both offense (wide receiver) and defense (cornerback) at a very high level.

Seven of the first 12 picks were linemen, showing how teams are focusing on building strong offensive and defensive lines. Only two quarterbacks were taken in the first round this year. Many football experts thought Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders would be a first-round pick, but surprisingly, he was selected in the fifth round. The Browns chose him with the 144th overall pick. Last year, Sanders won the 2024 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm award, which is given to the nation's top quarterback.

Ohio State University had 14 players selected in the draft, the most of any college. The University of Georgia had 13 players chosen, and the University of Texas had 12.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

BASKETBALL

In the NBA playoffs, the two top teams—the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Cleveland Cavaliers—are moving on after 4–0 first-round sweeps. On April 26, the Thunder ended their series against the Memphis Grizzlies with a 117–115 win. Two days earlier, the Thunder won Game 3 after a 29-point comeback. On April 28, the Cavs closed out their series against the Miami Heat with a 138–83 victory.



CLUB SOCCER

Liverpool FC beat Tottenham Hotspur, 5–1, on April 27 to clinch the English Premier League title. Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has scored 28 goals and provided 18 assists this season.

SWIMMING

On April 24, at a Para Swimming World Series 2025 competition, US Paralympic champion Leanne Smith broke her own world records in the 50-meter, 100-meter, and 200-meter freestyle. She won five events overall.

Sports





Athletes receive major honors

On April 21, top athletes from around the world gathered in Madrid, Spain, at a ceremony for the Laureus World Sports Awards. The annual event celebrates the best performances and most inspiring achievements of the past year, as well as groups that help young people through athletics. The awards are often called the most prestigious honors in sports.

US gymnast and Olympic champion Simone Biles won the Sportswoman of the Year Award. In 2024, she won four medals at the Paris Olympics, including three golds. Her performance was part of a major comeback that began in 2023, after she took a two-year break from competing to focus on her mental health. The Sportsman of the Year was Mondo Duplantis, a pole vaulter who was born in the US and competes for Sweden,

his mother's home country. Last year he was undefeated, broke his own world record three times, and won an Olympic gold.

Spanish soccer club Real Madrid, which won five tournament championships in 2024, received the Team of the Year Award. The Breakthrough of the Year Award went to Lamine Yamal, a Spanish soccer star. He had just turned 17 when he helped Spain defeat England in the 2024 Euro Cup final.

Among the other winners, Chinese swimmer Jiang Yuyan received the Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award. British cyclist Tom Pidcock won the Action Sportsperson of the Year Award. And Brazilian gymnast Rebeca Andrade earned the Comeback of the Year Award. She made a successful recovery from injuries and went on to win four Olympic medals in Paris.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Sydney Berzon

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOFTBALL
TEAM: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Team time I started playing softball when I was young, and it was because my older brother was playing baseball. My parents wanted us in summer activities and thought, Why not bring us to the same field every day? I also wanted to do what my brother was doing and truly enjoyed it.

Role model One of my idols is Carley Hoover, who played for LSU and is now a pro. I follow her on Instagram and see how she's motivated to get better every day. It pushes me to perform like that.



team's theme this year is about writing our own story. Our coaches gave us notebooks, and every day before I head to the field, I write down a motivational quote and do a little journaling. After a game, I write a reflection about how everything went. I've really enjoyed it.

Staying calm When I watch other sports and the game gets close and my heart rate goes up, I'll work on bringing it down so that when I'm in those situations in my own games, I've practiced doing it.

Wise words In softball and baseball, you fail more than you succeed. My dad told me from a young age that failure and difficulty are feedback. When I have a disappointing performance or we lose a big game, I try to understand how I could have done better and what I can do differently moving forward.

Big goals I'd love to make it to the College World Series this year. After college, I hope to get into coaching and play in the Athletes Unlimited league. I can't get away from softball. I love it so much.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Robert Querubin**

Team: Blue Wave Aquatics (swimming)

"Coach Bob is an amazing coach. He designs practices for our individual and team needs, depending on what we need to work on the most. He is really thoughtful and fun, and he has encouraged me time and again when I've been battling illnesses or having difficulties in my sport. He is one of the main reasons I'm still swimming!" Rae, 12, Pennsylvania

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@ theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.





Stranger Things comes to the stage

A new Broadway play based on the Netflix sci-fi series tells the origin story of the show's mysteries.

he popular Netflix series Stranger Things is heading into its final season, but a new chapter of the story is being told in a Broadway play. Stranger Things: The First Shadow opened on April 22 and serves as a preguel to the TV show. It

was written by one of the series' writers, Kate Trefry, and was produced by its creators, Matt and Ross Duffer, known as the Duffer Brothers. The First Shadow premiered in London, UK, in 2023, and won Olivier Awards (top theater awards) for set design and best new

entertainment or comedy play. The Broadway show, which differs slightly from the London production, is recommended for ages 12 and up.

As Stranger Things fans know, the TV series is set in the 1980s in Hawkins, Indiana, a town that experiences supernatural events. The play,

> which connects to the show's upcoming fifth season, includes references that fans will appreciate, but it was also written for audience members who are not familiar with the story.

The First Shadow mostly takes place in Hawkins in 1959. It features several of the series' adult characters

when they were in high school. One of the teens is Henry Creel, who grows up to become the key source of the town's trouble.

Stranger Things:

Stranger Things is known for suspense, thrills, and monstrous creatures, and the play is filled with illusions and other eye-catching visuals. "The special effects are on another level," actor Juan Carlos, who plays teen Bob Newby on Broadway, told *The Week Junior*. The production uses puppets and animatronics to create its sci-fi monsters, and there is even a misty, shadowy version of the alternate dimension called the Upside Down. "I think fans of the show will be amazed," he said. "and fans of Broadway will be blown away."



This 2021 film (rated PG-13) reveals how a girl named Estella grows up to become a fashion designer who turns into Cruella de Vil, the revenge-driven villain of 101 Dalmatians.

Cruella



Peter and the **Starcatchers**

Juan Carlos

Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson wrote this 2006 book that takes place before J.M. Barrie's classic story Peter Pan. It follows a young orphaned Peter and his friends on a high-seas adventure.



Solo: A Star **Wars Story**

Star Wars hero Han Solo's life before Luke and Leia is depicted in this 2018 film (rated PG-13). When he meets Chewbacca and Lando Calrissian, it sets the stage for his future.





ActorscastinHarryPotter**TVseries**

n 2023, news broke that a TV series based on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books was going to be made for the streaming app Max. Filming begins this summer, and names of the actors who will portray some of the main adult

characters were recently revealed.

The Harry Potter series is an epic saga about a young orphan who discovers he is a wizard. The books were turned into popular films that came out between 2001 and 2011. The show will be released over 10 years, and each season will follow the story from one of the core books.

In the show, Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, will be played by actor John Lithgow. The decision created controversy because he is from the US. "I know there were plenty of people appalled that an American should be hired to play the ultimate English wizard," he told BBC's The One Show. "But I will do my best." Another casting decision that made headlines was Paapa Essiedu as the unfriendly Professor Severus Snape.

Essiedu is Black, which is a change from how fans have seen Snape on screen or described in the books.

Professor Minerva McGonagall will be played by Janet McTeer, and Nick Frost will play half-giant Rubeus Hagrid. In the films, Hagrid was played by Robbie Coltrane, who died in 2022. Frost posted on Instagram, "Robbie, I promise I won't let you down." Paul Whitehouse will portray Hogwarts

caretaker Argus Filch. He was Sir Cadogan in the 2004 film *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, but most of his scenes were cut.

There has been no word yet on who will be playing Harry Potter and his friends.





Red Bull Soapbox Race (Discovery+) (Discovery Channel)

In Red Bull's wild competitions, teams build soapbox cars that rely only on gravity to speed down race courses. Each episode of this series is set at an event in a different city around the world. Teams are judged on the creativity of their car and how quickly they get to the finish line.



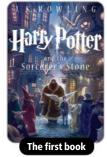
WondLa (Apple TV+)

Based on the best-selling *The Search for WondLa* books, this series is set in a future where Earth is called Orbona and inhabited by aliens. As the new second season begins, human teen Eva, who has newfound powers, sets off with friends to continue her search for her family.



Big City Greens(Disney Channel) (Disney+)

This hit series about curious 10-year-old Cricket Green and his quirky family is marking its 100th episode. In it, they go on a wild adventure that includes monstrous chickens and a trip to the afterlife. The episode premiered on the Disney Channel on May 3 and arrives on Disney+ May 7.





READER RECOMMENDS

The Emoii Movie PG (Netflix)

"This cool movie is set inside the smartphone of a teen named Alex, where keyboard emojis live in the city of Textopolis. It follows Gene Meh, a misfit emoji who is assigned to the 'meh' face but can't stick to one facial expression. When Alex tries to text 'meh' to his crush, he ends up embarrassed. The emoji leader wants to erase Gene, so he runs away. He teams up with Hi-5, a rejected emoji, and they find Jailbreak, a hacker who might be able to help Gene. The movie is about embracing individuality and expressing yourself even if the world is trying to put you down." Aarush, 13, Illinois

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Mystery set in a world of rabbit

usty Rabbit is a new exploration adventure game. It was recently released nfor the Nintendo Switch, PC, and PlayStation 5.

The game is set in a post-apocalyptic world where humans no longer exist and rabbits have become the planet's dominant species. They have their own civilization filled with houses, stores, and restaurants. The main character is Stamp, a wisecracking, carrot-chomping rust digger who lives in a cozy, snow-covered town. Using his mech (piloted robot) named Junkster, he spends his days looking for old machine parts and other useful items.

Stamp does his digging underneath Smokestack Mountain, a wasteland left by humans. Early in the game's story, he gets to know a gang of diggers who call themselves the BBs. Eventually, Stamp decides to join them on a quest to the forbidden center of the mountain. They begin to uncover messages left on human computers, including one that seems like it belongs to Stamp's daughter. The pair didn't have a close relationship, but the discovery spurs him to search for her. One thing he wants to know is why she was there.

> The mystery unfolds in a 2.5D sidescroller view, with a gaming style known as Metroidvania. It involves using a map to travel through a world and collecting new skills and items that help open up different locations. The game has 15 biomes (environments) to explore and a lot of dungeons to crawl through. The junk Rusty picks up will become valuable as he crafts weapons to battle enemies along the way.

PODCAST # WEEK

CONSTANT WONDER KIDS

Major podcast platforms

This podcast is filled with fascinating true stories about unusual behaviors of plants and animals. In each short episode, guest experts chat about species they have encountered in the wild. Past topics have included how turtles recover from injuries and whether plants can think.



GAME of the W



LEMON CAKE

Nintendo Switch, Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and PC

The Week Junior reader Lucy, 13, recommended this game in which you revive and run a bakery. You can repair and decorate it, then make treats with items from your garden or eggs from your chickens. Earn enough money and you can open a cat café.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

LEGO CREATIVITY WORKSHOP: FRIENDSHIP

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-LegoFriendship

Follow along as Nadine Coyle, a famous Irish pop star, uses Lego bricks to make simple, custom gifts for friends and family. She creates a memory box, a pair of picture frames, and a "friendship trophy" that you can award to someone you love.



Book club

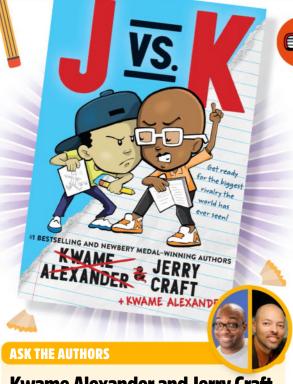




BOOK OF THE WEEK

J vs. K

By Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft (Little, Brown and Company) Celebrated authors Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft team up for an amusing book that imagines they're both in the same fifth-grade class. J is an epic artist but doesn't use any words in his comics. K is a whiz with words and writes the most amazing poems, but he can't draw well. His squares even look like circles! When their teacher announces the middle school's annual creative storytelling contest, they both want to enter. Since a fifth-grader has never won the competition, J is hoping to be in the top five. He tries to sabotage K by giving him terrible advice about drawing. K does the same to J with writing tips. Eventually, they realize they'll have a better chance of winning if they team up. For their entry, they create a comic called "Croak and Swagger: The Most Ribbiting Story Ever Told." Even the cafeteria workers get into the writing contest, putting Hot Dog Man and Rolls of Thunder on the school's lunch menu. But in a hilarious twist, J and K have some unexpected competition. This fun-to-read book—a mix of comic panels, poems, and prose provides a fresh approach to the rivals-turned-friends storyline and is the first in a clever new series.



Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft

We spoke to the authors of the Book of the Week.

Are J and K based on you?

Kwame: Yes, they are funny versions of ourselves. **Jerry:** J is definitely a little version of me. I just wanted to draw as a kid.

What was it like working together?

Kwame: The last couple of books I've written have been serious, so the best part for me was Jerry challenging me to tap into being funny.

Jerry: When we began, I'd write a chapter, then Kwame

would write the next one, and so on. I couldn't wait to read what Kwame wrote. It was like getting a little Christmas gift.

Which is harder— writing or illustrating?

Kwame: I think illustrating is harder. I find it incredible that Jerry can do both!

Any advice for kids?

Jerry: Keep dreaming!
I always considered myself a cartoonist, and I didn't think I could also write until I was nearly an adult.



4 books to enjoy for Cinco de Mayo

Find out about the Mexican celebration with these terrific titles.



Cousins in the Time of Magic

By Emma Otheguy (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) When three cousins find a time

portal in their aunt's yard, they travel back to 1862. To get home, they must deliver a sword to a general for the Battle of Puebla in Mexico on May 5, which is the basis for today's Cinco de Mayo celebrations. *Ages 8–12*



Fiesta! A Celebration of Latino Festivals

By Sherry Shahan, illustrated by Paula Barrágan (August House)

This colorful nonfiction book contains a month-by-month guide to annual Latino celebrations. Besides Cinco de Mayo in May, it highlights an Inca festival that takes place in Peru in June and a ritual of African origin held in Brazil in September. Ages 6 and up



The Hero of Cinco de Mayo

By José Angel Gutiérrez, illustrated by Stephen Marchesi (Piñata Books)

Written in English and Spanish, this nonfiction picture book explores the life of General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín (1829–1862). He led the Mexican army to an unexpected victory against the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. *Ages 6–10*



Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir

By Pedro Martín
(Dial Books)
When the author was a child,

he and his family took an epic road trip to Mexico to bring home his grandmother. This graphic-novel memoir highlights the family's adventures, brilliantly capturing the joy and heartache. It received several awards, including a Newbery Honor. Ages 8–12

C H

READER RECOMMENDS

Honest June By Tina Wells

"This book is about a girl named June. A fairy godmother named Victoria places a spell on June that makes her say the truth whenever she is asked a question. Victoria will only lift the spell if June will 'live her truth.' June worries her friends will think she's mean if she answers their questions honestly. I hope you enjoy this emotion-filled book." Iyana, 10, New Jersey

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...



Speak with confidence

Speak slowly

and clearly.

Find out how you can give a speech that leaves a lasting impression.

Whether you are preparing a presentation for a class, making a speech at an awards ceremony, or planning to join the debate team, knowing how to give a speech is an important skill to have. Learning to be more comfortable with public speaking will help you gain confidence. Here's how to get started.

Research your topic

Check out books from the library, talk to people who have knowledge about your subject, and search online for information. Write down facts that interest you, especially ones with numbers. Numbers help to make a speech memorable. For example, if you were preparing to talk about protecting tigers, it would be more compelling to say, "There are fewer than 6,000 tigers left in the wild," rather than "There aren't many tigers left in the wild."

Write your speech

Once you have done your research, you can start drafting your speech. Writing a speech is different from writing an essay because your audience isn't going to read what you write. They're going to listen to what you have to say. Think of your speech as your script. Read it out loud to

make sure it sounds like you. Many people will generally remember one or two main points from a speech, so your speech doesn't have to be long to be effective.

Begin practicing

At first, you may read your speech without looking up from your paper. As you practice, try to memorize the main points. This will help you speak more naturally. You can also try writing your main points on note cards and highlighting words you want to emphasize.

Number the cards so you can put them back in the right order if they get mixed up.

Rehearse for others

Now it's time to practice your speech in front of friends or family members. This helps you with making eye contact, speaking slowly, and pronouncing words clearly. You can try hand gestures and see how that feels. When you're done, ask for feedback.

Manage your nerves

When the time comes to give the speech in class or at an event, it's normal to feel nervous. Remember that audiences usually don't notice when a mistake is made. So if you make one, take a breath and keep going. Be proud of having the chance to make a speech!

3 types of speeches



Toast A toast is a brief speech that honors someone on a special occasion. The goal of this speech is to make the person feel special. At the end of the toast, the speaker typically asks everyone in attendance to raise their glass.

Commencement speech This is a formal address made to a class during a graduation ceremony. It's often given by a prominent person and is intended to congratulate and inspire the graduates.

Motivational talk You might hear this kind of speech before an important event, like from a coach before a big game. It's meant to be a call to action to perform your best.





Make a kale and chickpea Caesar salad

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1 (13- to 15-ounce) can chickpeas
- ½ cup plus 2 teaspoons olive oil
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons
 Worcestershire
 sauce

- Juice of 1 lemon
- Heaping ¼ cup grated Parmesan, plus more for serving
- 1¼ teaspoons grated fresh garlic (from about 2 small cloves)
- 1 teaspoon
 Dijon mustard
- 1 large bunch green kale

Instructions

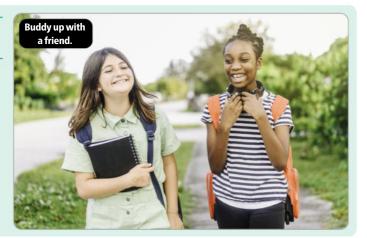
- Heat oven to 350° F. In a medium bowl, stir together the garlic powder, ¼ teaspoon salt, and a pinch of pepper.
- 2. On a baking sheet, toss the chickpeas with 2 teaspoons of olive oil. Roast in the preheated oven for about 45 minutes until crisp, gently shaking the pan halfway through.
- **3.** With an adult's help, transfer the chickpeas immediately to the bowl with the garlic mixture and stir to coat. Set aside.
- **4.** In a small bowl, whisk together the remaining ½ cup olive oil with the

- mayonnaise, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, ¼ cup Parmesan, grated garlic, and mustard until smooth. Season with salt and pepper and whisk to combine.
- **5.** Put the kale in a large bowl and toss with half of the dressing.
- 6. Place a portion of salad on a plate and top with the roasted chickpeas and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese.
- Serve immediately with the rest of the dressing on the side. Makes 3 large main salads or 6 small side salads.



WALK OR BIKE TO YOUR DESTINATION

With the weather warming up, it's a great idea to walk or ride your bike whenever you can. It's good exercise and gives you a chance to socialize with other kids your age who are walking to school or biking around town. It also helps reduce pollution from motor vehicles in your neighborhood. You can even talk to your family about starting what's called a "walking bus" for your block, which is a term for a group of kids who meet up near their homes to walk to school together. Just be sure to be safe while walking or biking. Stay on the sidewalk, cross at designated spots with crossing guards, and if biking, always wear a helmet.







Puzzles



Word ladder

To change the word SEND into the word MAIL, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



?	5	E	N	
Elbows and knees				

James _ (movie spy known as 007)

n ____ of you" ("I like you")

Cafeteria offering

Trick or deceive

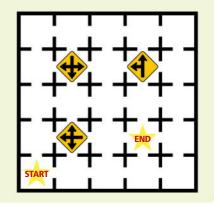
can do this

Aluminum kitchen wrap

Be unsuccessful at a goal

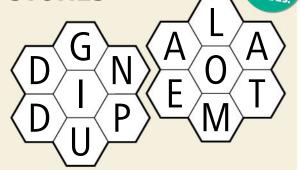
DETOURS

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

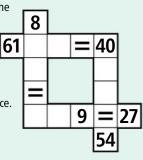
Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter food you eat with a spoon. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol $(+, -, \times, \text{ or } \div)$

to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



Spot the difference These two pictures of a huge African elephant crossing the plains of the Serengeti appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





That's unbelievable!





Toothpaste that tastes like chicken

Who says toothpaste has to be minty? Fast-food giant KFC has joined with dental care company Hismile for a "full-on flavor takeover" inspired by Colonel Sanders' 11 essential ingredients. The pair created a fried-chicken-flavored pasted esigned to keep mouths freshand clean. Hismile's marketing director admitted, "This started as an April Fools' joke, but we thought, 'Why not make it real?" The innovative oral care idea quickly sold out, along with a KFC-branded specialty tooth brush with a built-in timer.



Pop goes the video game

As pop star Sabrina Carpenter headlines the eighth season of the game Fortnite Festival, she has also made her way into the larger Fortnite universe. The gaming platform released Sabrina Carpenter items and "skins," which allow players to make their characters look like the singer—blonde hair, tour outfits, microphone, and all. Gamers now report that hordes of Sabrinas are gathering for group choreography, forming bands, and taking dance breaks in the middle of fights. "That's that she espresso," Fortnite said.



Athletic grannies take the field

Last month in South Africa, women from seven countries laced up their cleats for a soccer competition called the Grannies International Football Tournament. Having grandchildren is not required, but players must be at least 50 years old. After fierce matches, during which one French player was compared to soccer legend Diego Maradona, the women hugged each other, took selfies, sang, and danced. "We play, we move, we travel," said competitor Fikile Sithole. "It's going to take us a long time to get old."



Cuddles at the Capybara Cafe

Although capybaras are native to South America, some of the world's largest living rodents have found a new home at a business in St. Augustine, Florida. During each half-hour session at the Capybara Cafe, the cuddly creatures chew on corn while resting on visitors' laps and enjoying head scratches. "If you're really good at giving scratches, they'll actually fall over," said owner Stephanie Angel. "So that's always our goal." Do you think this story is real, or is doubt gnawing at you?*

*Real! Stephanie Angel founded the Capybara Cafe to raise money for an animal refuge. Visitors can spend time with capybaras, a wallaby, a skunk, and an armadillo. "I wasn't expecting how affectionate they were," one visitor said.



Your turn

Editor's note

Have you heard of the ice bucket challenge (p4)? It first became popular in 2014, when more than 17 million people around the world poured buckets of cold water over their heads to increase awareness of a disease called ALS. The effort raised more than \$115 million for ALS research! This year, a group of college students in South Carolina started another ice bucket challenge, this time to bring attention and donations to Active Minds, a national organization focused on the mental health of young people. More than \$387,000 has been raised so far, and the organizers hope to see the total increase in May. which is Mental Health Awareness Month across the US. If you participate in the challenge, let us know! Have an adult send us a photo of you, before or after the water is poured, to hello@theweekjunior. com. We hope to receive lots of photos!

Andrea Barbalich

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Act to Change

This organization's goal is to support Asian American and Pacific Islander youth. It works to end bullying through workshops for teachers and students and runs a Youth Ambassador Program offering leadership training, mentorship, and networking opportunities. Since its founding in 2019, it has collected more than 10,000 antibullying pledges and reached more than 1,000 young people. Find out more at acttochange.org.

YOUR SPECTACULAR VACATION PHOTOS



■ "First Landing
State Park is one
of our favorite
places to go! We
were so excited to
see it highlighted
in The Week
Junior." Layla, 10,
Ben, 8, and Eden,
6, Virginia

▼ "I took The Week Junior with me on my trip to the Forbidden City in China." Jade. 11, Texas



▼"After we saw the photo of the Palace of Versailles on the back of *The Week Junior*, we were excited to see it in person!" Avery, 10, and William, 12, Minnesota





▲ "I enjoyed *The Week Junior* at the Grand Canyon on a very sunny day." Anthony, 10, Pennsylvania



▲ "We went snorkeling during a nighttime bioluminescence tour at Grand Cayman island." Henley, 10, Wisconsin

THE WEEK IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Thank you to everyone who sent us photos of themselves taking a trip! If you have a photo of yourself holding *The Week Junior* anywhere in the US or the world, we'd love to see it. Have an adult email it to hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's happening in the photo.



▲ "I love reading *The Week Junior* so much I brought it with me on a cruise to the Bahamas." Vanessa, 10, Florida

"I took *The Week Junior* to Japan!" Nikhil, 10, Texas





▲ "We love reading *The Week Junior* to learn about things close to home as well as around the world. It got us ready for a great trip to London." Elaine, 16, Cameron, 14, Norah, 11, and Griffin, 9, Indiana

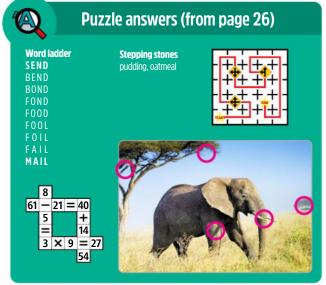


"I would like to nominate my third grade teacher, Ms. Webb. She starts every day with a morning meeting so students can share something special with the class. For her spring project assignment, we get to pick a person from history, learn about them, and do a poster board. Then we dress up like our chosen person and present our report to the whole school. Ms. Webb is the best teacher!"

Charlotte, 8, Rhode Island

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekiunior.com.



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 a) Cam Ward 2 The Extremely Large Telescope 3 b) Nick Frost 4 False. They are more likely to survive unusually cold temperatures. 5 b) Detroit 6 Junkster 7 a) Chile 8 False. It is set in 1959. 9 *J vs. K* 10 c) Priestess 11 a) Liverpool FC 12 True 13 V-E Day 14 a) Elphaba 15 True

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which football player was chosen first overall in this year's NFL Draft?

a) Cam Ward

b) Abdul Carter

c) Travis Hunter

a b c

2 What is the name of the new space telescope being built in a desert in Chile?

3 Which actor has been cast to play Rubeus Hagrid in the new Harry Potter TV series?

a) John Lithgow

b) Nick Frost

c) Paapa Essiedu

a b c

4 True or false? Giraffes with larger spots are more likely to survive unusually hot temperatures.

True False

5 Giant sequoia trees were recently planted to create an urban forest in which US city?

a) Chicago b) Detroit c) Milwaukee

a b c

6 In the video game Rusty Rabbit, what is the name of Stamp's piloted robot?

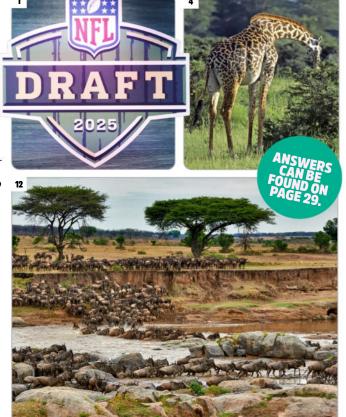
7 Fifteen flightless birds called Darwin's rheas are being moved from Argentina to which country?

a) Chile b) Brazil c) Colombia

a b c

8 True or false? The new play Stranger Things:TheFirstShadowissetinthe1980s.

True False



9 What is the title of the new children's book by renowned authors Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft?

10 In the ancient Italian city of Pompeii, researchers found a statue of a woman who likely held what role?

a) Doctor

b) Teacher

c) Priestess

a b c

11 Which club won this year's English Premier League soccer title?

a) Liverpool FC

b) Manchester United

c) Tottenham Hotspur

b c

12 True or false? Africa's Serengeti National Park is about three times the size of Grand Canvon National Park.

False False

13 May 8 is the anniversary of a major milestone in World War II called what?





14 Lencia Kebede is the first Black actor to play which role full-time in the Broadway musical Wicked?

a) Elphaba

b) Glinda

c) Madame Morrible

a h c

15 True or false? KFC and Hismile released a toothpaste that tastes like fried chicken.

True False

The Week

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A CASE OF OODLES OF DOODLES DRINKS AND A CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WEEK JUNIOR



Oodlesofdoodlesdrinks oodlesofdoodlesdrinks.com

"Hi! I'm Millie Eason, and at the age of 13, I've done something that still feels absolutely incredible-I've helped create my own beverage company called Oodles of Doodles Drinks! You know how sometimes you have this brilliant idea that just won't leave your head? Well, that's exactly what happened with our fun, refreshing drinks. I'm really obsessed with our strawberry watermelon non-carbonated drink (it's absolutely dee-lish!), and our sparkling grape flavor is simply amazing!

The most brilliant part about being a co-founder is seeing our drinks sitting on store shelves— I still get butterflies every time I spot them! It's like watching your favorite drawing come to life - but better because you can actually drink it!

When I'm not busy creating new doodles or thinking up drink ideas, you'll find me on the soccer field. I absolutely love traveling around for matches-it's really exciting! What's especially cool is how both soccer and running a business teach you similar things-like working on a team and never giving up, even when things get challenging!"



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-CATHERINE DOYLE, author of The Storm Keeper's Island

"A triumph of imagination and storytelling."

-A. F. STEADMAN, author of Skandar and the Unicorn Thief

